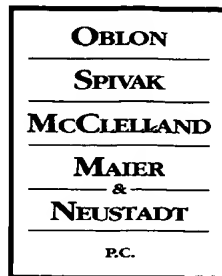




Docket No.: 210689US3PCT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



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RE: Application Serial No.: 09/868,916
Applicants: Kazue WATANABE
Filing Date: July 11, 2001
For: RESIN-COATED SHEET AND METHOD FOR
PRODUCING THE SAME
Group Art Unit: 1771
Examiner: BOYD, J

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Our check in the amount of \$465.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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210689US3PC



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Kazue WATANABE

: EXAMINER: BOYD, J

SERIAL NO: 09/868,916

:

FILED: July 11, 2001

: GROUP: 1771

FOR: RESIN-COATED SHEET AND METHOD
FOR PRODUCING THE SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement stated in the Official Action dated April 2, 2003, Applicant provisionally elects Group II, Claims 6-13, drawn to a method for producing a resin-coated sheet.

Applicant respectfully traverses the outstanding Restriction Requirement. The outstanding Office Action states that the inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. However, MPEP §803 states the following:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

In the present application, Claims 1-5 are directed to resin-coated sheets, while Claims 6-13 are directed to methods for producing a resin-coated sheet. Hence, it appears that these claims in the present application are part of an overlapping search area and that a search for

Claims 6-13 would necessarily include a search directed to Claims 1-5 as well. It is therefore believed that there is no undue burden on the Examiner to search all the claims under MPEP §803, and Applicant respectfully traverses the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single group be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-13 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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